

SARAH L. OVERTON (CSB # 163810)  
 CUMMINGS, MCCLOREY, DAVIS, ACHO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
 3801 University Avenue, Suite 560  
 Riverside, CA 92501  
 (951) 276-4420  
 (951) 276-4405 facsimile  
soverton@cnda-law.com

Attorneys for Defendant  
 Superior Court of California,  
 County of Orange

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DOE 1, et al.,	)	CASE: CV18-01499 DOC (JDEx)
Plaintiffs,	)	NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT;
v.	)	REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE AND EXHIBIT [Filed concurrently]
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE, a California public entity,	)	[PROPOSED] ORDER
Defendant.	)	Date : February 4, 2019 Time : 8:30 a.m. Courtroom : 9D, 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor Judge: : Hon. David O. Carter

TO PLAINTIFFS DOES 1 THROUGH 6 AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF  
 RECORD:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 4, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., or as  
 soon thereafter as counsel may be heard in Courtroom 9D of the above-entitled  
 court located at 350 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, California, defendant Superior  
 Court of California, County of Orange, will and hereby does move this court

1 pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 12(b)(1) and (6) for a dismissal  
2 of the complaint against this moving party on the following grounds:

- 3 1. This court lacks subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Article III  
4 standing;
- 5 2. The complaint is not ripe;
- 6 3. The complaint is barred by the Eleventh Amendment;
- 7 4. The complaint is barred by the *Younger* Abstention Doctrine;
- 8 5. The complaint is barred by 28 U.S.C. § 2283;
- 9 6. The complaint is barred by judicial immunity;
- 10 7. The complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

11 This motion is based upon this notice of motion, the attached memorandum  
12 of points and authorities, the request for judicial notice and exhibit filed  
13 concurrently, all pleadings and papers on file in this action, and upon such other  
14 matters as the court may allow to be presented at the time of the hearing of this  
15 matter.

16 Pursuant to L.R. 7-3, the conference of counsel occurred on September 7 and  
17 12, 2018, and on December 17, 2018.

18 Dated: December 21, 2018

19 **CUMMINGS, McCLOREY, DAVIS, ACHO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

20  
21 /S/ SARAH L. OVERTON

22 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Sarah L. Overton  
24 Attorneys for the Defendant  
25 Superior Court of California, County of Orange  
26  
27  
28

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	THE COMPLAINT MUST BE DISMISSED BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS CANNOT DEMONSTRATE ARTICLE III STANDING.....	2
III.	THE COURT LACKS JURISDICTION BECAUSE THE CASE IS NOT RIPE.....	4
IV.	THE DISTRICT COURT LACKS JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO THE ELEVENTH AMENDMENT.....	5
V.	THE ABSTENTION DOCTRINE PREVENTS THE COURT FROM GRANTING DECLARATORY OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF DIRECTED TO THE SUPERIOR COURT.....	6
VI.	THE COMPLAINT IS BARRED BY 28 U.S.C. § 2283.....	7
VII.	ABSOLUTE JUDICIAL IMMUNITY BARS PLAINTIFFS’ COMPLAINT.....	8
VIII.	THE COMPLAINT FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM UPON WHICH RELIEF CAN BE GRANTED.....	9
IX.	CONCLUSION.....	11

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

### **Cases**

<i>Alabama v. Pugh</i> , 438 U.S. 781 (1978) . . . . .	5
<i>Ashcroft v. Iqbal</i> , 556 U.S. 662 (2009) . . . . .	9
<i>Barren v. Harrington</i> , 152 F.3d 1193 (9th Cir. 1998) . . . . .	10
<i>Belanger v. Madera Unified School District</i> , 963 F.2d. 248 (9th Cir. 1992) . . . .	5
<i>Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly</i> , 550 U.S. 544 (2007) . . . . .	9
<i>Bradley v. Fisher</i> , 80 U.S. 335 (1872) . . . . .	8
<i>Cahill v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co.</i> , 80 F.3d 337 (9th Cir. 1996) . . . . .	9
<i>Chick Kam Choo v. Exxon Corp.</i> , 486 U.S. 140 (1988) . . . . .	7
<i>Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network</i> , 18 F.3d 752 (9th Cir. 1994) . . . . .	9
<i>Durning v. Citibank, N.A.</i> , 950 F.2d 1419 (9th Cir. 1991) . . . . .	6
<i>Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.</i> , 528 U.S. 167	
(2000) . . . . .	3
<i>Gibson v. Berryhill</i> , 411 U.S. 564 (1973) . . . . .	7
<i>Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness v. Zolin</i> , 812 F.2d 1103 (9th Cir. 1987)	
. . . . .	6
<i>Hansen v. Black</i> , 885 F.2d 642 (9th Cir. 1989) . . . . .	10
<i>Hirsh v. Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of California</i> , 67 F.3d 708 (9th	
Cir. 1995) . . . . .	7
<i>Johnson v. Duffy</i> , 588 F.2d 740 (9th Cir. 1978) . . . . .	10
<i>Los Angeles Cty. Ass'n of Envtl. Health Specialists v. Lewin</i> , 215 F. Supp. 2d	
1071 (C.D. Cal. 2002) . . . . .	6
<i>Mireles v. Waco</i> , 502 U.S. 9 (1991) . . . . .	8
<i>Nat'l Park Hosp. Ass'n v. Dep't of Interior</i> , 538 U.S. 803 (2003) . . . . .	4
<i>O'Shea v. Littleton</i> , 414 U.S. 488 (1974) . . . . .	3
<i>Pennhurst v. Halderman</i> , 465 U.S. 89 (1984) . . . . .	6
<i>Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.</i> , 481 U.S. 1 (1987) . . . . .	6, 7

1	<i>Regents of the University of California, et al. v. John Doe, et al.</i> , 519 U.S. 425	
2	(1997) . . . . .	5
3	<i>Robertson v. Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.</i> , 749 F.2d. 530 (9th Cir. 1984) . . . . .	9
4	<i>Sandpiper Village Condominium Ass'n., Inc. v. Louisiana-Pacific Corp.</i> , 428 F.3d	
5	831 (9th Cir. 2005) . . . . .	7
6	<i>Sec. &amp; Exch. Comm'n v. Med. Comm. for Human Rights</i> , 404 U.S. 403 (1972) .	2
7	<i>Stump v. Sparkman</i> , 435 U.S. 349 (1973) . . . . .	8
8	<i>Summers v. Earth Island Inst.</i> , 555 U.S. 488 (2009) . . . . .	2, 3
9	<i>Thomas v. Union Carbide Agr. Prod. Co.</i> , 473 U.S. 568 (1985) . . . . .	5
10	<i>U.S. v. Hays</i> , 515 U.S. 737 (1995) . . . . .	3
11	<i>Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church &amp;</i>	
12	<i>State, Inc.</i> , 454 U.S. 464 (1982) . . . . .	3
13	<i>Yakama Indian Nation v. State of Washington Department of Revenue</i> , 176 F.3d	
14	1241 (9th Cir. 1999) . . . . .	6
15	<i>Younger v. Harris</i> , 401 U.S. 37 (1971) . . . . .	6
16	<b>Statutes</b>	
17	28 U.S.C. § 2283 . . . . .	7
18	Cal. Elections Code, § 327 . . . . .	9
19	Cal. Gov. Code § 815.2(b) . . . . .	9
20	Cal. Gov. Code, § 810.2 . . . . .	9
21	<b>Rules</b>	
22	Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) . . . . .	2
23	Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) . . . . .	9
24	<b>Constitutional Provisions</b>	
25	California Constitution, Article 1, § 1 . . . . .	10
26	Eleventh Amendment . . . . .	5
27	United States Constitution, Article III, § 2 . . . . .	2
28		

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

**I.**

**INTRODUCTION**

The present action concerns a discovery order issued on May 17, 2018, by the Honorable John C. Gastelum, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Orange (Judge Gastelum), in the matter *Roe 1 v. Defendant Doe 1, Congregation*, Superior Court of California, County of Orange (Superior Court) case no. 30-2014-00741722 (Superior Court case). The Superior Court case concerns allegations of sexual abuse by members of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The discovery order at issue, attached to the instant complaint as exhibit B, requires plaintiffs to produce certain partially redacted documents which identify plaintiffs in some manner. Plaintiffs allege that the discovery order violates their Constitutional rights. Plaintiffs seek an order from the District Court enjoining the Superior Court (Judge Gastelum) from enforcing the discovery order. Although the complaint pertains exclusively to the order issued by Judge Gastelum, the only defendant named in plaintiffs' complaint is the Superior Court. The complaint alleges three claims for relief against the Superior Court: violation of the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments; violation of the California Constitution, Article 1, § 1; and, violation of the First Amendment. In addition to injunctive relief, the complaint also seeks monetary damages and a declaration that the discovery order violates plaintiffs' rights.

Since the filing of this complaint, plaintiffs also filed a motion for a protective order in the Superior Court case which essentially seeks the same relief as requested in the present case; namely, an order precluding disclosure of plaintiffs' identities in the discovery documents. The hearing of that motion is scheduled for January 15, 2019. If plaintiff prevails on their motion, the instant action would be rendered moot. *See*, Request for Judicial Notice (RJN) and ex. 1,

1 docket. *Roe I v. Defendant Doe I, Congregation*, Superior Court case no. 30-2014-  
2 00741722 (docket), p. 52.

3 As discussed more fully below, the motion to dismiss must be granted.  
4 First, the complaint fails to demonstrate that plaintiffs have Article III standing to  
5 proceed with this action. Second, plaintiffs' claims are not ripe. Third, plaintiffs'  
6 complaint against the Superior Court is barred by the Eleventh Amendment.  
7 Fourth, to the extent that plaintiffs seek an order enjoining the enforcement of the  
8 discovery order issued in the Superior Court case, the *Younger* Abstention  
9 Doctrine and the Anti-Injunction Act prevent this Court from granting that relief.  
10 Fifth, this action is barred by judicial immunity. Finally, the complaint fails to  
11 state a claim upon which relief can be granted against the Superior Court. Thus,  
12 the complaint must be dismissed without leave to amend.

## 13 II.

### 14 **THE COMPLAINT MUST BE DISMISSED BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS** 15 **CANNOT DEMONSTRATE ARTICLE III STANDING**

16 A party may bring a motion to dismiss where there is a "lack of jurisdiction  
17 over the subject matter." Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). The United States Constitution,  
18 Article III, section 2, grants to federal courts jurisdiction to hear only "cases" or  
19 "controversies." "[I]t is well settled that federal courts may act only in the  
20 context of a justiciable case or controversy.' (Citations.)" *Sec. & Exch. Comm'n*  
21 *v. Med. Comm. for Human Rights*, 404 U.S. 403, 407 (1972).

22 In limiting the judicial power to "Cases" and "Controversies,"  
23 Article III of the Constitution restricts it to the traditional role of  
24 Anglo-American courts, which is to redress or prevent actual or  
25 imminently threatened injury to persons caused by private or official  
violation of law.

26 *Summers v. Earth Island Inst.*, 555 U.S. 488, 492 (2009).

27 In the present case this court does not have jurisdiction because plaintiffs  
28



1 have not and cannot establish Article III standing. Indeed, Article III standing is  
 2 mandatory and not subject to waiver. *U.S. v. Hays*, 515 U.S. 737, 742 (1995). As  
 3 stated in *O'Shea v. Littleton*, 414 U.S. 488, 493-494 (1974):

4  
 5 Plaintiffs in the federal courts 'must allege some threatened or actual  
 6 injury resulting from the putatively illegal action before a federal  
 7 court may assume jurisdiction.' ... Abstract injury is not enough. It  
 8 must be alleged that the plaintiff 'has sustained or is immediately in  
 9 danger of sustaining some direct injury' as the result of the  
 10 challenged statute or official conduct. (Citation.)

11 To establish Article III standing, the plaintiff must demonstrate:

12 (1) it has suffered an "injury in fact" that is (a) concrete and  
 13 particularized and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or  
 14 hypothetical; (2) the injury is fairly traceable to the challenged action  
 15 of the defendant; and 3) it is likely, as opposed to merely speculative,  
 16 that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.

17 *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167,  
 18 180–81 (2000); *Summers*, 555 U.S. at 493.

19 It is the plaintiff as the party invoking federal jurisdiction who bears the  
 20 burden of establishing these elements. *Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555,  
 21 561 (1992). If a plaintiff cannot meet this burden, he cannot litigate in federal  
 22 court. *See, Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of*  
 23 *Church & State, Inc.*, 454 U.S. 464, 475-476 (1982).

24 In the present case, plaintiffs cannot meet any of the requirements to  
 25 establish Article III standing. Plaintiffs cannot demonstrate the first element that  
 26 they have suffered an "injury in fact" which is "concrete and particularized" and  
 27 "not conjectural or hypothetical." Here, plaintiffs allege that the release of  
 28 documents to "attorneys, experts, and possibly others" which contain their names  
 or other identifying information will cause a "risk" of "harassment, humiliation,  
 ridicule, social stigmatization..." Cmplt. pp. 8:13-19, 9:14-24, 11:4-12:3, 13:20-



25. Plaintiff's bare assertion of possible *future* harm is not an injury in fact which is concrete and which is not conjectural or hypothetical.

Plaintiffs also cannot demonstrate the second element that the injury is "fairly traceable" to action of the defendant. Here, the complaint does not allege that the subject discovery order is the cause in fact of any alleged future harassment, humiliation or ridicule to the plaintiffs. Moreover, the complaint does not allege that the Superior Court will personally subject plaintiffs to the future harassment, humiliation or ridicule. Rather, the complaint alludes to an unnamed person or persons who may at some time in the future learn of plaintiffs' identities and then subject plaintiffs to harassment, humiliation or ridicule.

Finally, plaintiffs cannot demonstrate the third element that "it is likely, as opposed to merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision." Here, even if the court enjoined the enforcement of the discovery order, that does not prevent the disclosure of plaintiffs' identities in some other manner during the course of the Superior Court case. Thus, because plaintiffs have not met and cannot meet the requirements of Article III standing, the court does not have jurisdiction and this action must be dismissed without leave to amend.

### III.

#### **THE COURT LACKS JURISDICTION BECAUSE THE CASE IS NOT RIPE**

"The ripeness doctrine is 'drawn both from Article III limitations on judicial power and from prudential reasons for refusing to exercise jurisdiction' ... but, even in a case raising only prudential concerns, the question of ripeness may be considered on a court's own motion. (Citations.)" *Nat'l Park Hosp. Ass'n v. Dep't of Interior*, 538 U.S. 803, 807–08 (2003).

1 Indeed, “[r]ipeness is a justiciability doctrine designed ‘to prevent the  
 2 courts, through avoidance of premature adjudication, from entangling themselves  
 3 in abstract disagreements over administrative policies, and also to protect the  
 4 agencies from judicial interference until an administrative decision has been  
 5 formalized and its effects felt in a concrete way by the challenging parties.’  
 6 (Citations.)” *Id.* “[R]ipeness is peculiarly a question of timing .... [I]ts basic  
 7 rationale is to prevent the courts, through premature adjudication, from entangling  
 8 themselves in abstract disagreements. (Citation.)” *Thomas v. Union Carbide Agr.*  
 9 *Prod. Co.*, 473 U.S. 568, 580 (1985).

10 The present action is not ripe. Plaintiffs seek premature adjudication of an  
 11 order which is still subject to modification in the Superior Court if Judge  
 12 Gastelum grants plaintiffs’ motion for a protective order. RJN, ex. 1, docket, p.  
 13 52. Thus, since the federal courts do not decide abstract or speculative  
 14 disagreements, the complaint must be dismissed because the action is not ripe.

#### 15 IV.

#### 16 THE DISTRICT COURT LACKS JURISDICTION 17 PURSUANT TO THE ELEVENTH AMENDMENT

18 The Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution states “[t]he  
 19 judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in  
 20 law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by  
 21 citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.”

22 The Eleventh Amendment grants sovereign immunity to states against  
 23 suits filed in federal court. *See, Regents of the University of California, et al. v.*  
 24 *John Doe, et al.*, 519 U.S. 425 (1997); *Alabama v. Pugh*, 438 U.S. 781 (1978).  
 25 The Eleventh Amendment bars actions against state agencies unless Congress  
 26 expresses to the contrary or the state agency unequivocally waives the immunity.  
 27 *Belanger v. Madera Unified School District*, 963 F.2d. 248, 249 (9th Cir. 1992);  
 28 *Yakama Indian Nation v. State of Washington Department of Revenue*, 176 F.3d

1 1241, 1244 (9th Cir. 1999); *Pennhurst v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 99-100  
 2 (1984). The Eleventh Amendment bar applies to suits which seek either  
 3 damages or injunctive relief against a state, an arm of the state, its  
 4 instrumentalities, or its agencies. *Durning v. Citibank, N.A.*, 950 F.2d 1419,  
 5 1422-1423 (9th Cir. 1991). Furthermore, a suit against the Superior Court is a  
 6 suit against the state and barred by the Eleventh Amendment. *Greater Los*  
 7 *Angeles Council on Deafness v. Zolin*, 812 F.2d 1103, 1107 (9th Cir. 1987); *Los*  
 8 *Angeles Cty. Ass'n of Env'tl. Health Specialists v. Lewin*, 215 F. Supp. 2d 1071,  
 9 1078 (C.D. Cal. 2002).

10 Here, the complaint for injunctive relief, declaratory relief and damages  
 11 against the Superior Court is barred by the Eleventh Amendment. Thus, the  
 12 motion to dismiss the complaint against the Superior Court must be granted and  
 13 the complaint dismissed without leave to amend.

#### 14 V.

### 15 **THE ABSTENTION DOCTRINE PREVENTS THE COURT** 16 **FROM GRANTING DECLARATORY OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF** 17 **DIRECTED TO THE SUPERIOR COURT**

18 It is the general rule that federal courts must abstain from granting  
 19 injunctive or declaratory relief that would interfere with pending state judicial  
 20 proceedings. *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37, 40-41 (1971; *see also*, *Penzoil Co.*  
 21 *v. Texaco, Inc.*, 481 U.S. 1, 11 (1987). “So long as those challenges relate to  
 22 pending state proceedings, proper respect for the ability of state courts to resolve  
 23 federal questions presented in state-court litigation mandates that the federal court  
 24 stay its hand.” *Penzoil*, at 14.

25 Indeed, abstention is required if the state court proceedings: (1) are  
 26 ongoing, (2) implicate important state interests, and (3) provide the plaintiff an  
 27  
 28

adequate opportunity to litigate federal claims. *Hirsh v. Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of California*, 67 F.3d 708, 711 (9th Cir. 1995).

In this case, abstention is required. First, the underlying Superior Court action is ongoing. Second, protection of state court orders and judgments is an important state interest. *Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.*, 481 U.S. 1, 13–14 (1987). Finally, plaintiffs have an adequate opportunity to litigate federal claims in the Superior Court action. Indeed, plaintiffs have currently raised the same issues in their motion for a protective order filed in the Superior Court case.

When the *Younger* Abstention Doctrine applies, the complaint must be dismissed. *Gibson v. Berryhill*, 411 U.S. 564, 577 (1973). Thus, since the *Younger* Abstention Doctrine applies in this case, the motion to dismiss must be granted without leave to amend.

## VI.

### **THE COMPLAINT IS BARRED BY 28 U.S.C. § 2283**

“A court of the United States may not grant an injunction to stay proceedings in a State court except as expressly authorized by Act of Congress....” 28 U.S.C. § 2283. “The limitations expressed in the Anti-Injunction Act “rest[ ] on the fundamental constitutional independence of the States and their courts....” *Sandpiper Village Condominium Ass’n., Inc. v. Louisiana-Pacific Corp.*, 428 F.3d 831, 842 (9th Cir. 2005). “[A] federal court does not have inherent power to ignore the limitations of § 2283 and to enjoin state court proceedings merely because those proceedings interfere with a protected federal right or invade an area pre-empted by federal law, even when the interference is unmistakably clear.” (Citations.)” *Chick Kam Choo v. Exxon Corp.*, 486 U.S. 140, 149 (1988). “[W]hen a state proceeding presents a federal issue, even a pre-emption issue, the proper course is to seek resolution of that issue by the state court. *Id.* at 149-150.

1 Here, the complaint is barred because the federal District Court does not  
 2 have the inherent authority to interfere in a state court proceeding pursuant to the  
 3 Anti-Injunction Act. Instead, the proper course for plaintiffs is to seek resolution  
 4 of their issues in the Superior Court case or in a higher state court. Consequently,  
 5 because this Court cannot issue an injunction in the Superior Court case, the  
 6 motion to dismiss must be granted.

## 7 VII.

### 8 ABSOLUTE JUDICIAL IMMUNITY BARS

#### 9 PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT

10 Judicial officers are absolutely entitled to unqualified immunity. “[I]t is the  
 11 general principle of the highest importance to the proper administration of justice  
 12 that a judicial officer, in exercising the authority vested in him, shall be free to act  
 13 upon his own conviction, without apprehension of personal consequences to  
 14 himself.” *Bradley v. Fisher*, 80 U.S. 335, 346 (1872).

15 The United States Supreme Court has established the rule that judges are  
 16 immune from civil suits arising out of the exercise of their judicial functions.  
 17 *Mireles v. Waco*, 502 U.S. 9, 11 (1991).

18 The Court in *Stump v. Sparkman*, 435 U.S. 349, 362 (1973), stated that:  
 19 [T]he factors determining whether an act by a judge is a ‘judicial’  
 20 one relate to the nature of the act itself, i.e., whether it is a function  
 21 normally performed by a judge, and to the expectations of the  
 22 parties, i.e., whether they dealt with the judge in his judicial capacity.

23 In the present case, judicial immunity applies because the complaint solely  
 24 concerns a judicial act, i.e., the issuance of the discovery order by Judge  
 25 Gastelum in the Superior Court action. The complaint fails to allege any  
 26 independent action of the Superior Court, aside from the action taken by Judge  
 27 Gastelum in his judicial capacity. Further, to the extent that this action is brought  
 28 against the Superior Court as the “employer” of Judge Gastelum, judicial

immunity also applies.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the complaint must be dismissed without leave to amend because the Superior Court is entitled to judicial immunity.

### VIII.

#### **THE COMPLAINT FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM UPON WHICH RELIEF CAN BE GRANTED**

A defendant can bring a motion to dismiss when the complaint fails to “state a claim upon which relief can be granted.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A complaint will be dismissed as a matter of law for either of two reasons “(1) lack of a cognizable legal theory or (2) insufficient facts under a cognizable legal theory.” *Robertson v. Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.*, 749 F.2d. 530, 534 (9th Cir. 1984). In determining whether a case fails to state a claim, “[a]ll allegations and material facts are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party.” *Cahill v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co.*, 80 F.3d 337, 338 (9th Cir. 1996). The court is not, however, required to accept “legal conclusions cast in the form of factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably be drawn from the facts alleged.” *Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network*, 18 F.3d 752, 754-755 (9th Cir. 1994).

A plaintiff must plead “more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007). “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). “[O]nly a complaint that states a plausible claim for relief survives a motion to dismiss.” *Id.* at 679. “A claim has facial plausibility when

---

<sup>1</sup> Under California law, “[e]xcept as otherwise provided by statute, “a public entity is not liable for an injury resulting from an act or omission of an employee of the public entity where the employee is immune from liability.” Cal. Gov. Code § 815.2(b). As used in section 815.2(b), “employee” includes a judge of a state superior court. *See*, Cal. Gov. Code, § 810.2 and Cal. Elections Code, § 327.



1 the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable  
2 inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.*

3 Here, the plaintiffs have entirely failed to plead factual content that allows  
4 the court to draw the reasonable inference that the Superior Court is liable to  
5 plaintiffs for violation of their Constitutional rights. With regard to plaintiffs’  
6 first and third claims for violation of the First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth  
7 Amendments, plaintiffs must allege specific facts showing the defendant’s  
8 personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation or a causal connection  
9 between the defendants’ alleged wrongful conduct and the alleged constitutional  
10 deprivation. *Hansen v. Black*, 885 F.2d 642, 646 (9th Cir. 1989); *Johnson v.*  
11 *Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 743-44 (9th Cir. 1978). “A plaintiff must allege facts, not  
12 simply conclusions that show an individual was personally involved in the  
13 deprivation of his civil rights.” *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th  
14 Cir. 1998).

15 Here, plaintiff has failed to plead facts to demonstrate that the Superior  
16 Court is personally involved in a deprivation of plaintiffs’ rights. Indeed, there  
17 are no facts alleged at all with regard to the Superior Court. Plaintiffs’ only  
18 factual allegation as to a violation of their rights, relates to the discovery order  
19 issued by Judge Gastelum. Moreover, there no facts alleged that plaintiffs’ rights  
20 have been violated because no documents which contain their identities have yet  
21 been produced in accordance with that order.

22 Likewise, plaintiffs have failed to state facts to constitute the second claim  
23 for violation of the California Constitution, Article 1, § 1. That provision states:  
24 “All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights.  
25 Among these are ... pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.”

26 Here again, plaintiffs have failed to plead facts to support this claim. Their  
27 privacy has not been invaded because no identifying documents have been  
28 produced. Indeed, plaintiffs’ identities may never be disclosed because plaintiffs



1 are actively seeking a protective order in the Superior Court case. Thus, the  
2 motion to dismiss must be granted because plaintiff have failed to allege facts to  
3 support any claim for relief against the Superior Court.

4 **IX.**

5 **CONCLUSION**

6 For all of the foregoing reasons, the motion to dismiss must be granted and  
7 the complaint dismissed *without* leave to amend.

8 Dated: December 21, 2018

9 **CUMMINGS, McCLOREY, DAVIS, ACHO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

10 /S/ SARAH L. OVERTON

11 By: \_\_\_\_\_

12 Sarah L. Overton

13 Attorneys for the Defendant

14 Superior Court of California, County of Orange  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am employed in the County of Riverside, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. I am an employee of or agent for Cummings, McClorey, Davis, Acho & Associates, P.C., 3801 University Avenue, Suite 560, Riverside, California 92501.

I hereby certify that on December 21, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing [PROPOSED] ORDER, with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court, Central District of California, by using the CM/ECF system.

I certify that participants in the case who are registered CM/ECF users will be served by the Central District CM/ECF system.

Executed on December 21, 2018, in Riverside, California. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

/S/Sarah Quesada  
Maricela Bobadilla, Declarant